

KAROECHO MEETING MINUTES – 8 JULY 2019

Attendees

Kevin Janes – KI6KNP
Jerry Michaels – K6KOP
Jon Hammond – KC2OKI
Howdy Goudey – KE6BEE
Karen Leong Fenton-KK6ZPM
Jay Fenton – KJ6WSS
Dave Swanson – KJ6AAT
Larry Vanselow – KK6GIO
Susan Yeaman – KN6CMR
Blake Yeaman – KN6CMP
Hal Graboske – KK6NDF

Old business/Announcements

- Approval of minutes
- New members – Susan and Blake Yeaman – new hams and members of the Albany CERT program join karoecho
- Members directed to review the just published KAROECHO July newsletter which has much information of value to ham radio operators and anyone interested in amateur radio and emergency communications in our communities.
- the KPSC and ECFD held a meeting at the Arlington Community church on current status of preparation for disasters especially for wildfire in the nearby hills. Attendance was 120 and we did provide the KE brochure for new ham licensees at the CERT table.

Infrastructure and equipment –team lead – Howdy + 5 KE members

- a team led by Jay Fenton plus volunteers from 6 radio clubs took down a 44' radio tower in the Oakland hills no longer needed by a silent key's family. The tower will be distributed to other hams for reinstallation in our area.
- the KFPD-funded base station at the KCC building has now been removed for storage during the building's remodeling project. The equipment will be reinstalled when the remodel is complete.
- the permissions required for KE operators to access the El Cerrito clubhouses for training exercises and in a disaster response situation is under review by the EC Parks& Rec and we await their decision.
- the GoKart funded by the ECFD has now been completed by NI6A and is now fully ready for service. The issue is where to position this equipment for it's rapid use. No one has yet volunteered to take this on – and altho various options have been proposed they are in areas peripheral to central EC – so we ask the members to see if a location near central EC can be found. It can be located in a residence or it's outbuildings as long as secure. We also would need KE hams living near this

location to agree to staff this station for drills and disaster response.

Outreach and recruiting – Karen lead –being transferred to Annette, with Todd and Don as team.

-Karen distributed 2 documents – KAROECHO Outreach committee report and CCCC member survey for 2019. She addressed a number of ideas the team is developing –the addition of people with PR and communications expertise to add to those with ham radio & disaster experience. They also would like to do a survey of all the KE members asking them to provide their resumes with their skills – radio and otherwise, and also for someone to provide a history of KAROECHO so this can be part of an outreach package. Another recommendation is to reach out to younger folks – for example at the BSA and other youth group levels, to engage them in a technical program that provides community service. Another outreach of value is to direct people to the KAROECHO website which has an extremely rich amount of radio and emergency communication info and instruction. And another idea is to ask the membership to personally recruit someone to become a ham, or for existing ham to join KE – calling it the “1 recruit 1” effort. Karen’s report (ask her for a digital copy) has much more complete information on the teams recommendations. Members wishing to help with this should contact Annette or Karen.

Funding – Larry team lead + Don and Hal as members

This is a critical area for the health of the club and is essentially not into operation as yet. To mount an effective fundraising effort we want to submit grant applications to funding agencies to get money to support and expand our effort in emergency communication. This requires us to come up with a compelling pitch about what we are doing and what are our needs to perform this service, a source of agencies who might fund this kind of effort, and a grant writer who can put this all together and start creating grant proposals. We need real help here and encourage any member who can contribute to getting this off the ground.

Planning & Coordination

-Dave has announced an All-CC Fire Radio Drill scheduled for August 17. The purpose is for all CC areas to call in on this date to their net control and identify high fire hazard areas in their vicinity. DJ is organizer and IC lead, Dave will serve as WCC IC and net control, while Howdy is EC/K net control. The drill is intended to be completely off grid to replicate likely disaster conditions. A preliminary drill was held on 6 July and a second drill occurred on 20 July. CERT groups are expected to provide input to the ICs for their areas.

-We have requested that the new EC/K EOP being managed by Chief Dave Gibson that ham radio and KAROECHO role be included as part of the emergency communication elements.

- Dave has created a CERT Emergency communication plan for Richmond,

which has been approved by Richmond City OES. Don is creating an adaptation of this for potential use by EC/K CERT.

-Don is also creating a FEMA compliant unit of Emergency Communication training for possible inclusion in the future CERT training program.

-Dave, Karen and other Richmond CERT members also participated in a CERT Traffic Control training led by Lamorinda CERT. It trained CERT folks the roles and equipment and procedures they will need to work with the first responders in a major evacuation. To further understand the role of radio in an evacuation we should talk to the Lamorinda CERT lead.

-Fire safety patrols – Dave also participated in an Oakland Radio Amateur club effort in a Oakland hills fire patrol – using radio for the exercise – with 20 hams participating.

Training and Demonstrations.

the demonstration for this meeting was Jay Fenton showing his own construction of a full service portable communication base station. Usable by a single operator but configured to accommodate a scribe as well.

The goal in developing the portable communication station (pcs) was to consolidate ham radios and accessories into a package that could serve as a home base station and could be used as a field station on short notice. The pcs can be tilted into a SUV or onto a pick-up bed for relocation. The 5" front and 10" rear wheels allow for movement over uneven surfaces. The radio section slides out and can be used separately of the rolling cabinet. The pcs is stable and can support a 24' antenna mast.

I have and will continue to use this prototypic pcs during our West County First Wednesday siren net in order to further develop under field conditions. Suggestions for improving the design, accessories, etc. are welcome.